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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

RALEIGH WATER CUSTOMERS GET EXTRA DAY TO IRRIGATE

WAKE FOREST, NC – May 27, 2008 – Raleigh water customers now may irrigate twice each week. On May 20 the Raleigh City Council approved the addition of weekend watering. The addition is effective immediately.

The water conservation measures apply to all City of Raleigh water customers, including Wake Forest and other towns that have merged water and sewer systems with Raleigh.

Raleigh’s Stage 1 water conservation measures provide for irrigation one day per week. Odd property addresses are permitted on Tuesdays and even property addresses on Wednesdays. Last week’s vote allows for odd property addresses to irrigate on Saturdays and even-numbered addresses to water on Sunday. Irrigation on these days by automatic irrigation systems is permitted only from midnight to 10 a.m. Those who use Raleigh-supplied water in garden-hose-attached lawn irrigation sprinklers may irrigate from 6 a.m. to 10 a.m. and between 6 p.m. and 10 p.m. on assigned days. The council action also allows for hand-held watering at any time.

Please refer to the chart listed below for specific information regarding water uses:

WATER USE	STAGE 1 RULES
Automatic/non-automatic irrigation systems	ODD = Tuesday & Saturday EVEN =Wednesday & Sunday 12 a.m. (midnight) – 10 a.m.
Hose End Sprinklers	ODD = Tuesday & Saturday EVEN =Wednesday & Sunday 6 a.m.-10 a.m. & 6 p.m.-10 p.m.
Hand held hose	Allowed at all times
Vehicle Washing, Pressure Washing (non-commercial use)	Saturday & Sunday (Commercial use is permitted all days)
Drip irrigation	Not restricted

To obtain a New Landscape Establishment Permit, call the Raleigh Public Utilities Department at (919) 857-4540. With this permit, one may irrigate any day for 45 days from the date of planting from 5 a.m. to 10 a.m.

Raleigh City Manager J. Russell Allen made the recommendation to the City Council. He cited several reasons for the proposal, foremost Falls Lake's measuring nine inches above full. He also said that once-weekly irrigation is insufficient to maintain lawns and shrubs during the oncoming hot weather. Allen also said that Raleigh water customers are continuing to do a good job of conserving. He noted that consumption is 20 percent less than the normal pumpage for this time of year.

Allen also reminded the City Council that its members had instructed that a formal move from Stage 1 come only following a careful and comprehensive review of the restrictions by the Council-appointed Water Conservation Council. The City Manager said such a careful study could take several months.

According to the U.S. Drought Monitor, areas west of Wake County remain in a moderate drought, while most of Wake and points east are classified as "abnormally dry." The Triangle has enjoyed normal rainfall in recent weeks. May rainfall to date is 2.52 inches, .23 inches above normal month to date. Currently the year-to-date total is just .03 inches below normal.

The Stage 1 conservation measures also limit use of City of Raleigh-supplied water for other residential uses such as washing vehicles at home (allowed on Saturdays and Sundays only), power washing driveways, sidewalks, homes (Saturdays and Sundays only) and filling swimming and decorative pools. The entire Stage 1 water conservation measures are listed on the [City of Raleigh's website](#) and are available by contacting the City of Raleigh Public Utilities Department at (919) 857-4540 or the City of Raleigh Public Affairs Department at (919) 890-3100.

Falls Lake currently stands at 252.08 feet, which is seven inches above full. The current 30-day pumpage demand is 41.6 million gallons per day (MGD), an increase of only 3.7 MGD from the lowest pumpage average posted during the Stage 2 water use restrictions.

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For more information about the [Town of Wake Forest](#), contact [Bill Crabtree](#), Public Information Officer, at (919) 554-6196.